

Readings for the week

Today	Psalm 139 v 1 - 18
	John 11 v 1 - 45
Monday	Hebrews 11 v 17 - 31
Tuesday	Hebrews 11 v 32 - 12 v 2
Wednesday	Hebrews 12 v 3 - 13
Thursday	Hebrews 12 v 14 - 29
Friday	Hebrews 13 v 1- 6
Saturday	Hebrews 13 v 17 - 25



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. *Praise God for the gift of music to help us worship Him. Give thanks for the hymn writers of the past and those who are writing new hymns and worship songs today.*
2. *Give thanks to God for all our church musicians, organists and other instrumentalists, choir members and all who help us worship God with joy.*

Adrian and Juliette's leaving date - 'I am pleased to announce that the Bishop of Coventry has agreed to me remaining as Rector of Alcester Minster until the way ahead is clearer regarding Coronavirus, and therefore we will not now be leaving on 19 April as had been previously planned.' *Adrian*

Sunday Worship for the Minster Churches - 29 March

Please use the 'Thought for the Day' on this notice sheet and/or the video messages on the website to join together in worship this Sunday.

Minster Matters and The Link

Due to current restrictions, we cannot deliver Minster Matters, but please pick up a copy from either Kinwarton Church porch, or Haselor Church Porch or the plastic box outside St Nicholas Church, or download from the Alcester Minster website 'Welcome Page'. Similarly The Link is available on the Minster website



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email administrator@alcesterminster.org



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches

Sunday 29 March 2020

Lent 5 *Purple*

"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me."

Psalm 139 v 1

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of
your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who
suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his
victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the
mysteries of his
passion,
that we may know eternal
peace
through the shedding of
our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Sunday 29th March 'Thought for the Day' presented by Sue

Reading: Psalm 139 v.1-4,18b.

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.....When I awake I am still with you.

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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Thought for the Day

If we were able to gather together for worship in church this morning we would be hearing Psalm 139 read to us – so you might want to have it open as you read this, or read it out loud – even if you are on your own.

We are all having to make huge adjustments to how we live in these extraordinary times. For most of us that means staying at home almost all the time and for some that means being on their own. This psalm reminds us that God is always with us. We might be missing friends, family and fellow church members, but the One who knows us most completely is here. God knows us better than anyone else – in fact He made us and knew us before we were even born (verses 13-15). We are not alone.

As gatherings for worship are forbidden and even church buildings are locked, we are having to discover new ways of being Church – the people of God – together. We are made in the image of a creator God and have God-given imaginations. Now is the time to stretch those imaginations, to be brave and adventurous in our worship and our fellowship.

There are lots of worship resources on line, from Messy Church to daily services. The Church of England website is a good place to start. Keep an eye on our own Minster website too. For those who are not comfortable with screens and technology, try looking out your old

copies of the Prayer Book, the Alternative Services Book (remember those?) or Common Worship where you will find prayers and services.

Psalm 139 reminds us that there is always more to discover about God: “How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!” (verse 17) – so there is no excuse for boredom! We can see this strange time as an opportunity to leave behind the noise and busyness of the world and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As we approach an Easter like no other we have experienced, we can reflect upon the loneliness of the cross and the shared joy of the resurrection, knowing there will be an end to this. There will again be shared joy. When it does end we will have changed and the church will have changed, hopefully to reflect more closely the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Not everyone will find it easy to pray. Fear and anxiety for loved ones and ourselves may crowd our minds. We can bring that to God too: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.” (verse 23). In his letter to the Philippians St. Paul tells us that prayer and thanksgiving are the best antidote to worry (Philippians 4 verses 4-7). May we all know God’s peace, which transcends all understanding, at this time.

Prayer

God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for your loving presence with us day by day, hour by hour. Thank you for all those who are using this opportunity to reach out and help others in many different ways. May we too find new ways to reflect the light and love of Christ at this dark time. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**